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To:

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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/NL2005/000218

International filing date (day/month/year)
23.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
23.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B41F27/12

Applicant
AV FLEXOLOGIC B.V.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYInternational application No.
PCT/NL2005/000218

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-20
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.10)

and /or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)

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Re Item V.

1 Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP-A-0 922 578 (A.V. FLEXOLOGIC B.V) 16 June 1999 (1999-06-16)

2 CLARITY

In claims 1, 7 and 17 the mentions to sensing position of the carrier seem to be a clerical mistake meaning sensing the position of the printing plate. This interpretation has been taken into account for assessing novelty and inventive step of the claims as indicated below.

3 NOVELTY AND INVENTIVE STEP

3.1 Document D1, corresponding to NL 1 007 631 C cited in the application, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (the references in parentheses applying to this document) a method for positioning a flexible printing plate on a carrier, comprising the following steps of:

- placing on a table (1) the flexible printing plate (12) for positioning;
- determining the position of the printing plate (12) by means of a visual display device; and
- depending on the position, moving the printing plate (12) to its end position on the carrier (23)

3.2 From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 1 differs in that the position of the carrier printing plate is sensed in the vicinity of the final position and that the carrier printing plate is moved to its end position depending on the position sensed in the vicinity of the final position.

3.3 Document D1 discloses also a device for positioning a printing plate (16) on a carrier (23), comprising a table (1) for positioning the at least one printing plate for positioning, support means (the other side of table 1) for supporting the carrier on which the printing plate (16) must be positioned, at least one camera (8,9) for

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recording the image of the printing plate (16), a manipulator (12-15) for transporting the printing plate (16) to the carrier (23) placed on the support means, and a control means (20) which is adapted to control the manipulator and which is connected to the camera to obtain signals coming from the camera.

- 3.4 From this, the subject-matter of independent claim 9 differs in that the at least one camera is placed for sensing the printing plate in the vicinity of the support means.
- 3.5 The subject-matter of claims 1 and 9 is therefore novel (Article 33(2) PCT).
The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as increasing the accuracy of the positioning of the printing plate.
- 3.6 The solution to this problem proposed in independent claims 1 and 9 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) because no document available as prior art shows cameras placed in the vicinity of the support means which would allow to sense the position of the printing plate in the vicinity of its final position.
- 2.3 Claims 2-8 and 10-20 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.